

the Denali region, observed the natural splendor of Denali, and, along with Alaska's territorial delegate to Congress, Judge Wickersham, and pioneering biological survey naturalist Edward Nelson, tirelessly advocated for Denali's protection;

Whereas early proponents of national parks, such as the Boone and Crockett Club, the Campfire Club of America, and the American Game Protective and Propagation Association, sponsored early expeditions, including those of Sheldon and Brown, and advocated for the creation of a national park at Denali;

Whereas, in 1910, miners from the Kantishna Hills discovered an approach by which Denali might be climbed, relying on years of observations while following quartz leads and hunting sheep in the foothills of the Denali area;

Whereas Athabascan Walter Harper joined Archdeacon Hudson Stuck, Harry Karstens, and Robert Tatum to successfully summit the highest peak of Denali in 1913, opening the door for thousands of individuals to test their own endurance and fortitude by attempting to climb the giant massif;

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the Act entitled "An Act to establish the Mount McKinley National Park, in the Territory of Alaska", approved February 26, 1917 (39 Stat. 938, chapter 121), for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States and the preservation of the Denali area's scenic beauty, animals, birds, and fish;

Whereas Congress expanded the boundaries of Mount McKinley National Park in 1922, 1932, and 1980 and renamed that national park Denali National Park and Preserve after the traditional Koyukon Athabascan name for the highest peak in the park, Deenaalee, meaning the High One;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve protects and interprets Denali, which is the highest mountain in North America, at 20,310 feet, and the tallest above-water mountain, with a vertical relief of almost 18,000 feet measured from its base;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve preserves a wild subarctic landscape with a rich and diverse tapestry of plant life and intact ecosystems where bears, wolves, caribou, moose, and Dall sheep roam as they have for thousands of years;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve protects a wide array of fossils that point to an age 70,000,000 years ago, when dinosaurs roamed that northern land;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve contains 2 of the oldest-known archaeology sites in North America, the oldest of which dates to just over 13,000 years old;

Whereas glaciers still blanket  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Denali National Park and Preserve and continue to shape the landscape by carving mountains, feeding silt-laden rivers, and depositing rock and silt across the valleys;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve was designated as an International Biosphere Reserve in 1976 and has become a premier international tourist destination;

Whereas, in 2016, nearly 600,000 visitors set foot in Denali National Park and Preserve, the greatest number of visitors in the history of Denali National Park and Preserve and a record number of visitors for the State of Alaska;

Whereas key tourism partners like the Alaska Railroad, the cruise ship industry, air and bus tour companies, and other outfitters have worked diligently to provide a wide array of ways in which the many visitors to Denali National Park and Preserve may experience Denali, including hiking, dog mushing, rafting, and cycling;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve's historic Denali Park Road provides

visitors with unparalleled opportunities to experience and explore millions of acres of an accessible wildlife sanctuary that represents one of the crown jewels of the United States;

Whereas residents of the State of Alaska continue their subsistence way of life by hunting and gathering in the majority of Denali National Park and Preserve;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve hosts the only working sled dog kennel in a national park, and winter patrols are conducted inside Denali National Park and Preserve using the age-old tradition of dog mushing; and

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve, known for its breathtaking scenery and iconic wildlife, protects more than 6,000,000 acres of towering mountains, expansive valleys, glacial rivers of ice, braided streams, and wildland for the benefit of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and celebrates Denali National Park and Preserve on its centennial anniversary;

(2) encourages all people of the State of Alaska and the United States to visit and experience this national treasure; and

(3) designates February 26, 2017, as "Denali National Park and Preserve Day".

SENATE RESOLUTION 56—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD REMAIN A GLOBAL LEADER IN WELCOMING AND PROVIDING REFUGE TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS AND THAT NO PERSON SHOULD BE BANNED FROM ENTERING THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF THEIR NATIONALITY, RACE, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR GENDER

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 56

Whereas the United States is a country founded on the principles of religious and political freedom;

Whereas hateful rhetoric against refugees and asylum seekers betrays the principles on which the United States was founded;

Whereas for centuries, people from around the world have sought refuge in the United States in pursuit of freedom and protection for themselves and their families;

Whereas people often seek refuge and asylum in the United States to flee war, armed conflict, violence, and religious, ethnic, and political persecution;

Whereas refugees and asylum seekers have been welcomed by towns, cities, and States across the United States;

Whereas refugees and asylum seekers have made their new communities stronger and

more vibrant and have positively contributed to the betterment of the United States;

Whereas the United States has a moral obligation to ensure that people fleeing violence and persecution are protected;

Whereas the United States Senate should continue its legacy of bipartisan leadership on refugees and asylum seekers;

Whereas a ban or halt on resettlement may result in prolonged and indefinite family separation;

Whereas executive actions targeting refugees and asylum seekers could place these most vulnerable populations at serious risk of death or injury; and

Whereas refugees are the most thoroughly screened and vetted entrants to the United States, undergoing multiple security checks by the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Counterterrorism Center: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the United States should remain a global leader in welcoming and providing refuge to refugees and asylum seekers; and

(B) no person should be banned from entering the United States because of their nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender;

(2) the Executive Order titled "Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States" issued by the President on January 27, 2017, undermines the national interest of the United States; and

(3) the Senate directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Director of National Intelligence.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has reported that more than 65 million people have been forcibly displaced around the globe by the end of 2015. In the face of such staggering human suffering, we must not shutter our doors and abandon our foundational principle of religious freedom. Yet that is exactly what our new President would have us do with the Executive order he signed 2 weeks ago. This is not something I support, and for good reasons.

Our freedom of religion was enshrined in the Constitution 225 years ago. Since forging this promise, we have been a confident Nation welcoming those of all faiths. The Executive order issued by the new Republican President threatens these founding ideals and the very freedoms we enjoy as Americans. It singles out Muslim refugees and those fleeing violence in Syria, and it suspends the refugee program as a whole. This is not the America I know. It is contrary to our values and contrary to the example America needs to set for the world.

The ongoing conflict in Syria makes clear the enormity of the humanitarian crisis we face. The terror inflicted by both Bashar Al-Assad's regime and ISIS has forced more than half of Syria's 23 million people from their homes and claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. Currently, there are more than 4.8 million registered

Syrian refugees, the overwhelming majority of whom are women and children. Communities across the country, including some in Vermont, started the process to welcome these refugees who have undergone years of security screenings and vetting. Rutland, VT, is prepared to welcome 100 refugees, but to date only two families have arrived. One of these families shared that their own children “were exposed to a lot of terror, and the sound of bombs and the sound of bullets and gunshots all day long.” This is no way to live. That is why I strongly agree with Rutland’s mayor Christopher Louras, who said accepting refugees “is just the right thing to do from a compassionate, humanitarian perspective.” We must do more.

There are other humanitarian crises impacting the world. Closer to home, ruthless armed gangs in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala continue to brutalize women and children with near impunity. We have a moral obligation to respond, and it is in our national interest to do that.

National security leaders agree that anti-Muslim rhetoric is not only contrary to our values, it also makes us less safe. FBI Director Comey told the Senate Judiciary Committee in November 2015 that part of ISIL’s narrative is to depict the United States as anti-Muslim. The Defense Department has made a similar point. House Speaker Ryan has also denounced a ban on Muslims, noting that it is “not conservatism” to impose a religious test. A bipartisan majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee agreed in December 2015 when it passed my amendment confirming that “the United States must not bar individuals from entering into the United States based on their religion.”

The chaos and confusion caused by this Executive order at our airports in the United States as well as around the world highlights the recklessness of this administration’s attempt to bar people based on their religion and national origin. The devastation this is causing to lawful immigrants and refugees fleeing violence is immeasurable. I fear for my constituents who are lawful permanent residents of the United States who also happen to be nationals of one of the seven targeted countries. Due to the widespread outrage expressed by thousands of concerned citizens and legal challenges across the country, the Trump administration has now clarified that the Executive order should not apply to legal permanent

residents. But there continues to be an understandable fear that the Trump administration may again attempt to bar them from this country. Like them, I fear that the Trump administration may again seek to bar lawful immigrants from returning to their homes, work, and families in Vermont. I also fear for the young Somali refugee in Vermont who has been patiently waiting for the completion of the resettlement process so that his pregnant wife and young son will be saved from the squalor of a refugee camp and reunited with him in Vermont. And the man from Sudan who has been waiting for his two young sons to finally be granted their visas to join him and the rest of their family. And the husband whose Libyan wife was recently granted a visa and has been waiting for the International Organization for Migration to arrange her flight to the United States. I am concerned for these families and for so many others in Vermont and around the country.

Americans are bound together by our shared ideals. Among those ideals are tolerance and diversity. They unite us as a nation; they make us stronger. That is the message we should be embracing—one of inclusion, not one of exclusion and division. Federal District Court Judge Geoffrey Crawford perfectly encapsulated this sentiment at a naturalization ceremony for 31 new Americans in Rutland, VT, last week. The summary of his powerful remarks, which he directed particularly to our new Muslim citizens, was this: “You are equal in the eyes of the law.” This simple message is clear, and unequivocal: You are welcome, you are equal, you are protected.

That is why I am introducing a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that no one should be blocked from entering the United States because of their nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender. Adoption of this resolution simply reaffirms the basic principle that this country does not have a litmus test. It will also show that the Senate will not allow fear to undermine the very principles and values that we cherish and that we have sworn to defend. The resolution is consistent with the strong bipartisan actions taken by the Senate less than 4 years ago when we passed comprehensive immigration reform legislation that included protections for refugees and asylum seekers. I urge Senators to

come together once again in support of my resolution.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, off the Senate floor immediately following the vote scheduled at 12 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Senate Hart Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Zach Ormsby of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of the DeVos nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 7, 2017:

##### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ELISABETH PRINCE DEVOS, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

#### NOTICE

*Incomplete record of Senate proceedings. Today’s Senate proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.*